

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 19 and 20 are canceled.

Entry of the amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance; (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on July 27, 2006. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-18 and 21 are allowed.

The rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nagel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,362,008, has been rendered moot. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS:BMD/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 5, 2006

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